



We're alert for a top day out, but not alarmed



Pleasure as usual . . . terror talk has not deterred crowds, such as this packed house at Bowral yesterday for the Bradman XI v England game. Report - Page 5 Photo: Steven Siewert

Picnic chair, salad roll and a return to the good old days

Peter Munro

An hour into play, an announcement came over the cricket ground's loud speaker: "Could the bus driver from the English team please return to his bus."

He had popped up to town for a bite to eat. It was that sort of day.

The crowd came to Bowral with picnic chairs and Eskys full of food and drink, or joined the short queue to buy a \$2.50 can of beer. Between innings, kids and adults played french cricket next to the pitch while bagpipers paraded around the ground and a clown threw out lollies.

The 5000-strong crowd made



yesterday's one-day match between a Bradman XI and England a sell-out, but ticket scalpers were still turned away.

Rick Farrell, 61, from Glenfield, queued for spare tickets in a line of people who told a scalper asking double the

Easy does it . . . Mark Waugh, right, and Michael Whitney take to the field yesterday.

Photo: Steven Siewert

\$25 admission price to get lost. "Everyone shunned him," he said. "There are other people here walking up and handing us their spare tickets for free."

Farrell found a seat with his family behind the white picket fence of Bradman Oval.

The mood around the small ground was friendly. Police were about, but were given far less work than the ambo on a hot, steamy Southern Highlands day that turned cold.

Fans acted as third umpires and some offered the Australian Test player Stuart MacGill a chicken salad roll while he was fielding on the fence.

"It seems like the way that cricket was meant to be," Farrell said.

A six hit by debut English captain Ronnie Irani, one of a few in England's innings of 279, landed on top of a car across the road. Play stopped when another six was lost in shrubbery.

Phyl Napier watched the cricket from her front verandah. The 91-year-old has seen many games on the oval and watched Sir Donald Bradman bat.

Later, the Bradman XI captain, Mark Waugh, not only brought up his ton with a six, but won the match with one.